

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Judge Donald and Elizabeth Delashmutt House

other John G. and Marian Whelan House

### 2. Location

street and number 119 Forest Avenue ☐ not for publication

city, town Rockville ☐ vicinity

county Montgomery

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Keith Jacobson and Katherine Michaelian

street and number 119 Forest Avenue telephone

city, town Rockville state Md zip code 20850

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. liber 19392 folio 676

city, town Rockville tax map GR33 tax parcel tax ID number 00160023

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	2	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social		<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory**

\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. \_\_\_\_\_

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### Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary Description



The Delashmutt house is a one-and-a half story Tudor-style brick cottage composed of a front gable main block and an intersecting side-gable wing. Its irregular massing, post-medieval detailing and variety of decorative materials lend it the picturesque effect sought for in the "Period House" of the early twentieth century.

The 100 block of Forest Avenue is characterized by large street streets, mature

yard plantings, and asphalt street material with intermittent curbs and sidewalks. Number 119 is one of three 1 ½ -story houses on the east side of the block. It is typical of the eclectic mix of styles and periods in the West Montgomery Avenue Historic District. The house is well set back from Forest Avenue and faces west. Many shrubs and trees dot the yard.



A curving flagstone path leads from the street to the main entrance while a concrete walk leads from the street to an enclosed porch section on the south facade. A macadam drive leads to a gable-roofed brick garage located in the northeast corner of the lot. This garage shares a wall with the garage of the property to the east.

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### Description

Located at the southeast corner of the intersection of Forest and Beall Avenues, the house retains a small town setting. Its neighbors across Forest Avenue are substantial Victorian houses while those on the same side of Forest represent a variety of early twentieth century styles. These houses are well set back from the street, which is bordered by large shade trees.

Though composed of two intersecting blocks, the house is compact and nearly square in form. A flat roofed single-story section behind the side wing fills the gap in the ell. A small frame porch extends from the north side of the house and single story, hip roof, frame section extends from the south side. Shed roofed group dormers project from the gable roofed blocks. Brick exterior chimneys are located at the front and back of the house.



Most windows in the house are six-over-six. These are frequently grouped in pairs or in groups of three and vary in width and height. Diamond-pane casement and narrow three-light windows add still more variety. The window frames are wood and the sills cast stone. The foundation is brick. The brickwork of the walls is running bond. A band of decorative brickwork runs along the top of the first story. The top sections of the gable ends are finished with swirled stucco. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The front (west) facade has five bays and a single bay extension to the south. The three bay main block has a main entrance located in the off-center middle bay. Its door is wood paneled and topped by a gothic arch. The cast stone door surround is surmounted by a lintel with a floral design and has grains along the side. A group of three windows is located in the northern bay and a single window is located in the southern bay. The stuccoed gable has three narrow, diamond-paned windows. A massive chimney separates the main block from the side gable wing. The latter has a single window in the first floor and a small dormer with a pair of diamond-pane windows in the attic story.



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The frame extension was originally a wooden porch with the square posts and decorative balustrades found on the existing small northern side porch. The Whelans believed that the original owner, Judge Donald Delashmutt, converted the porch into an office. It retains the dimensions of the original porch and has a four light window unit on the west façade with a 6/6 window on each side of a pair of 1/1 windows. There is an entrance and window on the south façade. This section has a hipped roof clad with asphalt shingles. It carries out the multiple window groupings employed in the rest of the house.

The south side is composed of three sections; the gable end of the main block with a narrow three-light window, the enclosed frame porch already described, and a single-story three-bay block that fills in the ell. The roof of this block is flat and is surrounded by a parapet. The architect's plans show this as a roof terrace complete with potted plants. It has two paired windows and a single window in the center bay.



The five-bay north elevation is formed by the side of the main block. It has two shed-roofed roof dormers, each with a string of three 6/6 windows. A small porch projects from the second bay from the east and continues the flared roof at the eave. A single window is in the first east bay. As called for in the architect's plans, this porch has lattice walls, square posts and decorative balustrades. All the first floor windows are single and have been replaced with single casement lights, except for a group of three 6/6 windows in the west bay.



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The rear façade, pictured in the 1985 black and white photo by Elizabeth Hannold, is formed by the single story roof garden block and the gable end of the main block. The two sections are separated by a massive chimney. The single story section has a single bay with a paired window. The gable end has three narrow, three-light windows in the attic and two bays below. The southern bay has a single window while the northern has a pair of windows.

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The only alteration visible on the exterior is the enclosure of the porch located on the south side. Similarly the original floor plans, which were in the Whelan's possession, reveal that the interior has been little altered. The attic plans called for only one finished room, designated the "maid's room", while this floor now has two bedrooms and a bath. Notations on the plat indicate that these may have been added before the house was completed.

The first floor has a center hall that terminates in a wall. The stairs are behind the hall, but access to them is at the rear of the house. The dining room and living room are located on either side of the central hall and are entered through five-foot wide doorways. Cast metal, electric sconces which appear to be original are found in the dining room, living room and hall. The dining room has a built-in corner cupboard with a scrolled pediment. The living room fireplace has a wooden mantle piece supported by simple columns. The door and window moldings throughout the house are simple and classically inspired. French doors at the south end of the living room open onto the side porch, which has been enclosed, and is paneled in pine.

A small pantry was originally located between the dining room and kitchen but has been opened to the kitchen. The original pantry cabinets remain. A side hall located just off of the center hall gives access to the three, first-floor bedrooms. The bathrooms are tiled in a basket-weave pattern of white, gray and black tiles, which appear to be original.



Garage of 119 Forest Avenue – Elizabeth Hannold, 1985

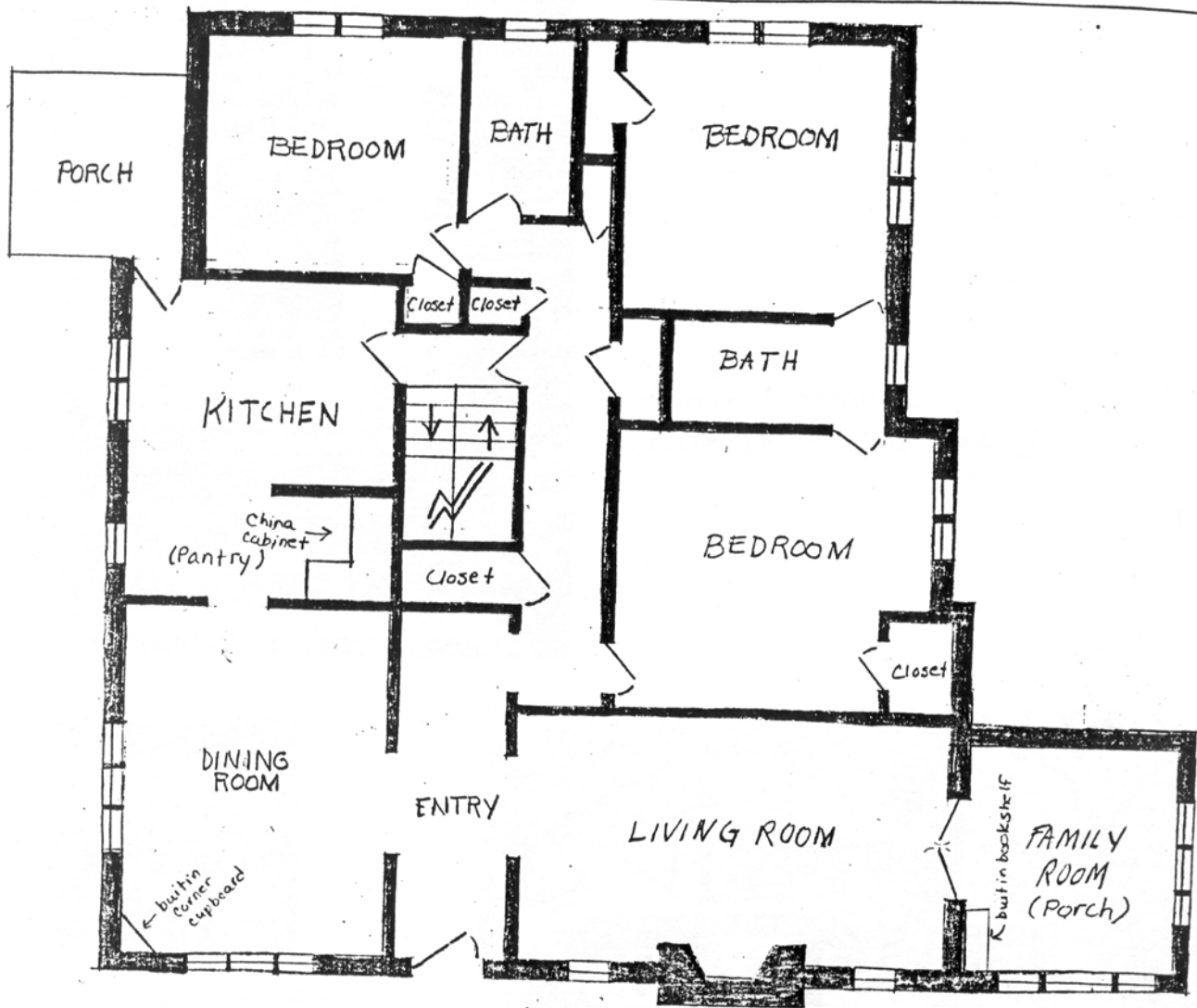
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**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

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1st Floor Plan

119 Forest Avenue

Scale  $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$

N ⊕

First floor Plan by Elizabeth Hannold, 1985

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. \_\_\_\_\_

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

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<b>Specific dates</b>	1928	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	John W. Kearney/ Frank H. Karn
<b>Construction dates</b>	1928		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☒ Maryland Register

☐ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1928, the Delashmutt house reflects the growing sophistication of Rockville. Designed by a Washington, D.C. architect in the popular 1920s "Jacobethan" mode, it is more distinguished than many of its Rockville contemporaries. At the same time it illustrates how high style precedents could be translated to a more simple and compact form while retaining the picturesque quality of the Period House. It served as home to a Judge

The house is architecturally significant as an early Rockville example of the popularized English Arts and Craft/Tudor Revival style. Of particular interest are its roofing details and its asymmetric massing. It is also historically significant as a vestige of the original subdivision of Margaret J. Beall's land to her Dawson relatives.

### NARRATIVE

The house at 119 Forest Avenue sits on lot 10, block 17, of M. J. Beall's Subdivision of Part of Rockville, which was platted in 1893.<sup>1</sup> Margaret J. Beall was one of the three unmarried daughters of Jane and Upton Beall who inherited what is now known as the Beall-Dawson House at 103 West Montgomery Avenue. The 67 ½ acre property extended in the mid-nineteenth century from North Adams Street to Forest Avenue and from Darnestown Road to Martin's Lane. Margaret Beall became the sole owner of the property in 1870, following the deaths of her sisters, with whom she had shared the house. A cousin, Amelia Somerville, moved in, married John Lawrence Dawson, and raised a family of eight children there.<sup>2</sup>

The extension of the Metropolitan Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to Rockville in 1873 was expected to produce a real estate boom and construction of more housing. "Beall's Subdivision of Part of Rockville," was platted in 1888 by Margaret Beall on farmland adjacent to her Montgomery Avenue

<sup>1</sup> Plat Book A, plat 10, August, 1893, surveyed by G. M. Anderson.

<sup>2</sup> McGuckian, Eileen, Rockville, Portrait of a City, (Rockville, Md. 2001) at 28.



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residence. While the town experienced a brief boom in the 1890s, it was not of the anticipated dimensions. In 1896 Miss Beall sold eight lots in Block 17 of the subdivision to Julia R. Trumball of Washington. Seven years later Mrs. Trumball sold these same lots to Charles A. Beard of Rockville. Mr. Beard built a frame bungalow on the lot to the south of 119 Forest and in 1927 sold lots 1 and 17 and parts of lots 2 and 18 to Elizabeth and Donald Delashmutt. Through a number of transactions in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, the Delashmutts sold portions of lots 17 and 18 and all of lots 1 and 2.<sup>3</sup>

The Delashmutts were active members of the courthouse community, serving on various public committees in Rockville.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Delashmutt came from a Frederick County legal family.<sup>5</sup> He practiced law in Rockville and served as Justice of the Peace and Trial Magistrate.<sup>6</sup>

According to a note on the blueprints, the designs were completed in February of 1928 and construction was completed in October of that year. The Delashmutt's architect was John W. Kearney of Washington, D.C. Frank Karn, a Rockville builder, constructed the house. Karn also built the brick house with post-medieval detailing located across the street at 200 Forest Avenue.

The elevation drawings for 119 Forest reveal a wealth of exterior details. As executed, some of these decorative features are absent: the round arches over the windows, the half timbering in the-stuccoed portions, and the "tudor" bird house in the peak of the front gable. Still, the exterior is distinguished by a degree of detailing uncommon in Rockville houses of this size and period. It derives even more interest from its use of varied materials and window treatments. Excepting the porch, it appears to retain all exterior features as constructed. Similarly, the interior has been little altered. It retains distinctive, though subdued, decorative elements and the original free-flowing plan.

The use of an architect for a house of this size in a rural town, like early twentieth century Rockville, is significant. It was more common for moderate-sized houses to be designed by builders or based on ready-made plans. Though small, roughly 2,500 square feet on the first floor, the efficient arrangement of its interior space gives its rooms the expansive feeling of a larger house. Furthermore, its skillfully utilized exterior details are evidence of a superior quality of design. This quality is reflected in its cost, \$10,954, rather high for the time and place.

A notation on the back of the blueprints, which refers to the house as a "brick bungalow", is evidence of the wide-spread use of the term "bungalow" for any small house. While its compact form, free-flowing plan and efficient use of space are characteristics shared by houses in the bungalow style, its greater emphasis on verticality, its historically derived decorative features and more pretentious character place the Delashmutt house in a different architectural tradition.

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<sup>3</sup> Land records, Montgomery County Courthouse.

<sup>4</sup> Noma Thompson, Western Gateway to the National Capital (Washington, D.C.: Steward Printing Company, 1950), p.50.

<sup>5</sup> Montgomery County Sentinel, December 31, 1926.

<sup>6</sup> Thompson, p.50.

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Though encompassing a range of styles, these houses of the first third of the twentieth century which attempt, to varying degrees, to express a particular historical type are commonly called Period Houses. Unlike their Victorian predecessors, the designers of these houses drew on a single source of inspiration. Rather than copying the source, they sought to evoke its character through form and detail.

Houses based on early English and Colonial American vernacular buildings were particularly popular in the 1920s.

Rockville has many examples of both these types, although this example is particularly well detailed and planned. On the interior, these houses continued the trend toward open plans that had begun at the end of the Nineteenth century. Deliberately more sophisticated than the bungalow, the Period House could, nonetheless be adapted to the needs and means of the middle-class homeowner. The Delashmutt house demonstrates how picturesque details and rooflines applied to a basically square form could produce the effect of a rambling cottage without abandoning the convenience of the modern interior.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. \_\_\_\_\_

Land, Will and Plat Records of Montgomery County, Maryland. Eileen McGuckian, Rockville: Portrait of a City, Providence House Publishers, 2001. Montgomery County Historical Society files on Dawson Family. Noma Thompson, Western Gateway to the National Capital, Washington D.C. 1950, Montgomery County Sentinel Newspaper, 12/31/1926. Interview with Mrs. John Whelan by Elizabeth Hannold, 1985. Architectural drawings of 119 Forest by John W. Kearney.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 18,594 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 18,594 square feet  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 17 and part lot 18, Block 17, Beall's Subdivision

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Elizabeth Hannold GWU March 1985	Updated by	Judith Christensen
organization	City of Rockville, MD	date	August, 2002
street & number	111 Maryland Avenue	telephone	2403148232
city or town	Rockville 20850	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Dr. Gilbert and Brunetta Hartley House: 103 Forest Avenue

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